



Saguaro National Park (West)

Naturalist Program Schedule

Programs meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center, 2700 N. Kinney Road, and last 30 to 45 minutes, unless noted otherwise. All programs are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5158 for updates. See www.nps.gov/sagu for other programs.

October 6, 20, 27 2:15 p.m. **Puma: Predator, Prey, and Peril** *Talk: 45 minutes*
Often called puma, cougar, or mountain lion, discover the true nature of this secretive, nocturnal and elusive predator. Explore the threats that this creature faces as it struggles to survive within an ever-shrinking habitat. *Wheelchair accessible.*

October 7, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 2:15 p.m. **The CCC in Saguaro NP** *Talk: 45 minutes*
The Civilian Conservation Corps was a Great Depression-era work program that greatly influenced national, state, and county parks. Saguaro's trails, picnic areas, and scenic drives were established during this program. Old photos and movie clips illustrate a brief history of the CCC in this area. *Wheelchair accessible.*

October 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 9:45 a.m. **Signs of Life in the Desert** *Walk: 40 minutes*
Life abounds in the desert but often is hard to see because many creatures either come out at night or are shy and secretive. Most, however, leave signs of their existence. Join a park ranger for a short walk, part of it in a wash, near the visitor center to search for evidence of animal life.

October 19, 20 9:45 a.m. **Neighborhood Characters** *Walk: 30 minutes*
On an easy walk in the Cactus Garden you will meet desert plants that may remind you of people you may know, including "Bill Gates." *Wheelchair accessible*

October 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 10:45 a.m. **Living With Giants** *Talk: 30 minutes*
The saguaro celebrates events and faces challenges throughout its life. A biologist explains how it provides shelter and substance for wildlife; when it flowers; its growth patterns; and how it fights for survival against drought, lightning, frost, and other dangers. *Wheelchair accessible.*

October 7, 14, 21, 28 1:15 p.m. **Synergy in the Desert: The Sonoran Habitat** *Talk and Walk: 45 minutes*
For all of life, "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts" is true. The iconic Saguaro is the focal point for a discussion of how the parts of the Sonoran Desert work together to create a rich living desert that is unique in the world.

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 1:15 p.m. **Lizards are Hot, Lizards are Cool** *Talk: 30 minutes*
Frequently overlooked, discover how these small denizens of the desert become a critical component of our desert community. *Wheelchair accessible.*

October 14, 21, 28 2:15 p.m. **How Do They Do It?** *Walk: 15 minutes, 100 yards*
Discover how the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert have adapted to the harsh conditions of this unique environment. *Wheelchair accessible.*

October 14, 21, 28 3:15 p.m. **Whales in the Desert** *Talk: 45 minutes*
Learn about the unique connection between whales and the Sonoran Desert. *Wheelchair accessible.*

October 14, 28 10:45 a.m. **Life Cycle of the Saguaro: Seed to Giant** *Walk: 45 minutes, 100 yards*
Hear some astonishing reasons about why so few Saguaro seeds make it to fruition.